

WASHINGTON, D. C., SATURDAY, DECEMBER 23, 1905.

# HISTORY OF SCHOOLS

Public System Reviewed by Superintendent.

HUNDRED YEARS AGO

CONDITIONS AT BEGINNING OF PAST CENTURY.

Those Who Aided in Perfecting Methods and Upbuilding of Educational Interests.

Superintendent Stuart in his review of the school history from 1805 to 1865 for the public school centennial exhibition which has attracted thousands of visitors during the week says:

"A chapter of great interest and value might be written on the participation of men of national repute in the development of public education in the District of Columbia."

"As is well known, Washington ardently wishes to see a national university at Washington, and gave of his substance toward that end."

"Jefferson's keen interest in the educational future of our city, though not so well understood, unquestionably bore immediate fruit in his gift of money toward the first free elementary school and his active influence as president of our first board of education."

"There is no doubt that his valuation of education as essential to national life and development had been greatly enhanced by his contact with the arts and culture of France, where he so long resided. So the great statesman and philosopher of the people became at last an equally zealous champion of a universal education."

**Early Boards of Trustees.**  
"The roster of the earlier boards of trustees contained such eminent names as Robert Brent, nine times mayor of Washington, from 1802 to 1810; John Davis of Able, Rev. Andrew T. McCormick, who was for nineteen years president of the board of trustees of the Eastern Free School; Judge William Cranch, Daniel Rapine, John P. Van Ness, Roger C. Wadsworth and William A. Smallwood, Peter Force, John W. Maury, William B. Magruder, mayors of Washington; Daniel Carroll, one of the original proprietors; George Watterston, the first librarian of Congress; George Blagden, John Coyle, Jr., and Rev. William Matthews, a distinguished Catholic clergyman."

"Later in 1841 when the free school system had been in existence for nearly forty years with little to show for the earnest labors of successive boards of trustees, having an enrollment, including the Lancasterian School, of only about 200 pupils in a school population of 5,000, William W. Seaton, one of the editors of the National Intelligencer, and at the time mayor of the city, supported by Mr. George J. Abbott, a Harvard graduate, and afterward private secretary to Daniel Webster and James F. Halliday, a member of the city council, united in a movement which resulted in the reorganization of the school system after the New England idea, the division of the city into four school districts and the appointment of a single board of twelve members in place of the two which had been in existence since 1816."

"Dr. Edward Everett Hale was also associated with this movement."

**Mayor Nine Terms.**  
"Mr. Seaton was nine times re-elected mayor, and during his entire term was most assiduous in his efforts to build up the educational interests of the city. Mr. Abbott, for whom the Abbott School was afterward named, probably did more to promote reforms and to break down the old pauper school than any man of his day."

"In this educational awakening John Quincy Adams, Mr. Justice Woodbury, Chief Cushing and other men in public life contributed their services in influencing public sentiment favorably toward the betterment of the public schools. In 1845, years Prof. Joseph Henry, the great scientist and the head of the Smithsonian Institution, was in constant touch with him, and he had at heart the upbuilding of the schools. Another mayor of Washington, Richard Wallace, who served from 1863 to 1867, and presided as ex-officio over the meetings of the board of trustees, was instrumental early in his administration in the purchase of the entire square of ground in which the school which now bears his name was erected and which has since furnished sites successively for the Towers School and the Eastern High School. On a part of this lot was erected in 1864 the first modern ten-room school house in the District of Columbia, a building which marked the beginning of a new era of school-house construction, and which today affords an admirable example of school architecture."

**The Franklin Unsurpassed.**  
"It was under Mayor Wallace's direction also that another and far more pretentious building was provided for. This was the Franklin School, pronounced at that time to be 'unsurpassed in the country,' and erected at an expense of over \$200,000. Mayor Wallace's name must always be associated with the inauguration of the era of improved school-house construction, which has extended from 1864 to the present day. The distinguished educator, John Eaton, commissioner of Education from March 16, 1870, to August 5, 1888, was another public man whose lively interest in our local schools secured for them the benefit of his large experience and expert knowledge of educational problems during the whole of his incumbency as the head of the national bureau of education. In recent years Dr. Wm. T. Harris has rendered valuable services to the cause of education in this District."

"No man gave more attention to the promotion of the interests of the schools than Mr. William Jones Rhea, except Mr. J. Ormond Wilson, long a trustee and later superintendent of schools."

**Notable in School History.**  
"Among the teachers of the former days who were notable in the history of the schools we may recall the names of John E. Thompson, who for a period of forty years rendered an inestimable service to the cause of education in South Washington; Margaret Amidon of the same section, amiable and beloved; strong John Thomson, long at the head of the schools of the first district; Samuel Kelly and the Henhaws in the western part of the city; Hugh McCormick, William W. McCathran and Charles E. Hilton, in East Washington, and, later, Henry P. Montgomery and Nathaniel P. Gage of fragment memory."

"As we look backward over an interval of a hundred years and read again the story of the planting of those two pretentious schools for the education of the poor children, we find that by the very terms of the act which ordained them they have been forever associated with the life of the nation, for one was to be 'east of the Capitol and within half a mile of it, and the other within half a mile of the President's house.'"

"But there was, after all, little in their simple annals that could have been deemed prophetic of the extent and completeness of our public school system as it exists at the present day."

"In 1865 there were two schools with an enrollment of less than fifty pupils."

**Hundred Years Later.**  
"In 1905 there are 1,478 teachers and 51,250 pupils."

"In place of two plain wooden structures, fifty by twenty, costing less than \$800 each, where were gathered a few neglected youths, designated in more than one official report as paupers, to be taught the simplest rudiments of learning from the primitive textbooks of that period, there stand 134 modern school buildings, architecturally attractive, lighted, heated and ventilated according to the most recent standards of school hygiene, many of them equipped with adjustable seats and desks of the latest patterns and representing a valuation of more than \$6,000,000. These are presided over by a superior body of teachers, most of them having been trained in normal schools and not a few being university graduates, under whose instruction sit, side by side, the children of the rich and of the poor, the children of the highest officers of the government and those of the humblest citizens, all participating freely in the enjoyment of educational advantages as good as those provided by any community in America."

**Democratic System.**  
"Neither is it an idle boast to claim that no system of common schools in the country or the world is so democratic in its absolute equality of opportunity for all, regardless of race, nationality or social position, as that of the District of Columbia. This fact was strikingly attested two years ago when the Mosely commission was visiting the capital. Certain members of that distinguished body of English educators, when told that the children of the highest officials in public life were attending the common schools of Washington, inquired with some solicitude whether the particular schools thus patronized were not so safeguarded as to insure the exclusion of what they termed a select class, and expressed great astonishment when informed that the schools in question were open to all the children of the city, whether the neighborhood which happened to be of school age and otherwise qualified."

"Our organization for elementary and secondary education is at last complete, from the kindergarten to the normal school. If it is suggested that our curriculum is too inclusive and ambitious, the answer is that it has not even yet attained the broadest scope of that 'permanent institution for the education of youth' which was the dream of Jefferson and his co-laborers."

**ANNAPOLIS NOTES.**  
Special Correspondence of The Star.  
ANNAPOLIS, Md., December 22, 1905.  
Justice Davis adjudged two more of the captains of oyster-dredging vessels guilty of violating the oyster-cull laws of this state, and they were held for the action of the April term of the circuit court for Anne Arundel county. The captains are two of those arrested by the state police officials last week. Captain King had a cargo of 470 bushels aboard his schooner, Earl, and 23 per cent of the oysters were adjudged illegal. The fine and costs imposed amounted to \$108.05. George D. Webster, master of the schooner Laura A. Minor, had 402 bushels, 24 per cent of which were adjudged illegal, and the fine and costs in his case amounted to \$148.85.  
A marriage license was issued today to James W. Rogers, aged seventy-one, widower, and Mary E. Juster, aged sixty, widow, both residents of Anne Arundel county. St. John's College, St. Mary's parochial school and the public schools throughout Anne Arundel county closed today for the Christmas holidays.  
Mr. Robert J. Berryman, manager of the ice plant at Annapolis, and Mrs. Berryman today took up their residence in Washington.  
Isaac Owens, the victim of the mill accident, was buried today from St. Anne's Church.  
The commission is actively at work preparing a new charter for Annapolis, and all to grant which will be introduced early during the coming session of the legislature. An important part of the work was performed last night, the committee acting on the report of the committee on municipal powers. In relation to suffrage and qualification for office, the commission has approved a provision to confine the suffrage to those who, besides having the legal requirements of voters, possess at least \$100 worth of taxable property, or who can read or write, or who belong to the Maryland National Guard or volunteer fire companies of the city. It was also recommended by the commission that no person would be considered qualified to hold the office of mayor or alderman unless he was taxed for at least \$500 worth of property in the city or Annapolis.

**A MATTER OF LABOR**  
Most Serious of Philippine Problems.  
GOV. WRIGHT'S VIEWS  
AMERICAN INDUSTRIES WILL NOT BE MENACED.  
Work of Years Will Be Required to Produce Enough Sugar to Hurt Home Production.  
Gov. Luke C. Wright does not believe that the Philippines will ever be a commercial menace to any legitimate industry in the United States, even if there is absolute free trade declared between this country and the islands. He is in this country on a long furlough after three years of hard work in the archipelago, and has been attending the sessions of the ways and means committee of the House, which has been hearing witnesses for and against the reduction of the tariff.

Labor, he says, is the root of the several problems in the islands. There is a big population, but it is only effective about in the proportion of one to three, as compared with American labor. It will not be any more effective for a long time. Its improvement will depend on raising the standard of living of the people, feeding them better and making better people of them physically. Even then they probably will not reach the standard of American labor, so that it will not mean throwing a population of 7,000,000 people into competition with the labor market of the United States. As to outside labor, there is no chance of getting it. The Chinese are barred from the islands by the exclusion act and the Japanese by the contract labor law, so there is no chance of flooding this country with the products of cheap coolie labor. As to the Chinese in the islands, Gov. Wright made what to many people will be a surprising statement, and that is that there are not more than 45,000 Chinese in the whole group of islands. Of these, about 21,000 are in Manila, where many of them are employed in the government service, and the remainder are scattered throughout the islands. He said that they spend their time, so that the Chinese population looks larger to the outsider than it really is.

**The Tariff Question.**  
Referring to the question of sugar and the tariff, Gov. Wright said:

"There has been more or less nonsense talked on this subject that I have ever heard before. The statement has been made that the exports of sugar from the islands would be 600,000 tons in excess of the whole consumption of the United States. Now, this is unbelievable folly. The exports of such labor law, so there is no chance of flooding this country with the products of cheap coolie labor. As to the Chinese in the islands, Gov. Wright made what to many people will be a surprising statement, and that is that there are not more than 45,000 Chinese in the whole group of islands. Of these, about 21,000 are in Manila, where many of them are employed in the government service, and the remainder are scattered throughout the islands. He said that they spend their time, so that the Chinese population looks larger to the outsider than it really is."

"The committee charged with investigating the feasibility of securing funds for the erection of a hall reported progress. The work will be a surprising thing. There is neither the land nor the labor to work on a very big crop for years to come. Take the island of Negros and a part of Panay—and they are the only sugar islands in the group—even they are not worked to the full for lack of labor. The sugar laborer does not make as much as the man who goes to get tobacco, and you are not going to get laborers to quit more profitable employment for one less so."

Gov. Wright was asked if there were not sugar land in Mindanao, and he replied:

"Yes, there is. But there, again, the question of labor comes in. There is no one to work it, and there will not be for many years to come. The sugar production of the islands will grow with time, with the introduction of improved machinery and the physical labor element of the population. But if the islands are to export 600,000 tons of sugar in the next five or six years they will be doing well. Now, this will be a very big task. The 600,000 tons consumed in the United States is increasing rapidly in population, and if the Philippines in five or ten years are to begin to export sugar, the production of sugar at the rate of 100,000 tons a year, which is very doubtful, they would not more than keep up with the increasing demand in this country."

**Should Have Open Market.**  
"No, there is not the slightest danger that the Philippines will ever swamp this country with sugar. But they ought to be given a good, steady open market, and this would help the industry."

"A great deal of misinformation about sugar that has been disseminated from the islands was put out by the people who wanted to make out a case against the Philippines. I know one man who went there for that purpose and who told the people down in Negros that the people he represented had \$5,000,000 to invest in sugar lands. Well! did those gullible people give him some roseate stories about the possibilities of sugar? I guess they did. They had lands to sell. You don't see a man with \$5,000,000 into any country in the United States to buy up their lands, and I suspect they will give him some surprising figures as to the fertility and value of the soil too."

As to the tobacco situation, Gov. Wright says there is even less likelihood of its injuring the trade in the United States than there is of sugar doing the same thing.

"People do not seem to realize," said he, "that there are only two provinces in the Philippines that raise tobacco to amount to anything. They are Cagayan and Isabela, and these are Casagayan and Isabela plant a serious show in the American market. Most of the tobacco that is grown in the Philippines is for home consumption. Nearly everybody there above the

age of five, men, women and children, smoke. There is an immense domestic consumption of tobacco and there is little raised above the domestic needs. The best of the surplus crop comes to Manila and there it is made up by the big manufacturers who are about as clean as soap suds as it would be possible to find. The business is profitable to them as it is, and a widening of the market would only give the growers a chance to sell their wares somewhere else and at better prices than they now do. Naturally this is not what the manufacturers in Manila want."

**The Agricultural Banks.**  
"It was not long ago that the planters sent a deputation to the government in Manila asking for an advance of \$100,000 on their crop so that they could hold it for better prices than the manufacturers were then willing to give. They think the government ought to do that sort of thing right along. That would be one of the benefits of the proposed agricultural bank. We have recommended in our report the establishment of such a bank with private capital under government guarantee. But the people must have respectable security before a well-conducted bank can advance them money. There is really no reason why something of approximately the same sort should not work in the Philippines."

"The general situation is good. Things are quiet and the roads and railroads are being extended gradually. One of the greatest troubles that we have in holding the restless work with the American administrator, either private or public, somewhere within speaking distance of the easy-going indifference and slowness of the native of the tropics. There is really more friction over that difference in temperament than over anything else just now. It is a more serious small problem than one outside the country would imagine."

**HYATTSVILLE AND VICINITY.**  
Riverdale Citizens' Association Meets—  
Public Schools Close for Holidays.  
Special Correspondence of The Star.  
HYATTSVILLE, Md., December 22, 1905.  
The Riverdale Citizens' Association (Incorporated) held its semi-monthly meeting Tuesday evening at the residence of Mr. Charles Wagner. The following members of the ladies' auxiliary were present as guests: Mrs. Steinmeyer, Mrs. McGee, Mrs. Shipley, Mrs. Meyer, Mrs. Wagner and Mrs. Thompson. President Joseph Fanning was in the chair, and Mr. F. C. Burrhus was secretary. Messrs. M. M. Flannery and Warren L. Wagner were elected members of the association.

Mr. Meyer, from the committee on arrangement for the ball to be given in Masonic Hall next week, reported that the prospects for a large attendance were bright. Mr. Fanning, chairman of the school committee, reported that he was securing data from different sections of the county pertaining to the sanitary condition of the schools, the number of children under each teacher and compensation received by the instructors. The committee hopes to have the data in shape by the end of the month.

The committee charged with investigating the feasibility of securing funds for the erection of a hall reported progress. The work will be a surprising thing. There is neither the land nor the labor to work on a very big crop for years to come. Take the island of Negros and a part of Panay—and they are the only sugar islands in the group—even they are not worked to the full for lack of labor. The sugar laborer does not make as much as the man who goes to get tobacco, and you are not going to get laborers to quit more profitable employment for one less so."

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HYATTSVILLE, Md., December 22, 1905.  
The Riverdale Citizens' Association (Incorporated) held its semi-monthly meeting Tuesday evening at the residence of Mr. Charles Wagner. The following members of the ladies' auxiliary were present as guests: Mrs. Steinmeyer, Mrs. McGee, Mrs. Shipley, Mrs. Meyer, Mrs. Wagner and Mrs. Thompson. President Joseph Fanning was in the chair, and Mr. F. C. Burrhus was secretary. Messrs. M. M. Flannery and Warren L. Wagner were elected members of the association.

Mr. Meyer, from the committee on arrangement for the ball to be given in Masonic Hall next week, reported that the prospects for a large attendance were bright. Mr. Fanning, chairman of the school committee, reported that he was securing data from different sections of the county pertaining to the sanitary condition of the schools, the number of children under each teacher and compensation received by the instructors. The committee hopes to have the data in shape by the end of the month.

The committee charged with investigating the feasibility of securing funds for the erection of a hall reported progress. The work will be a surprising thing. There is neither the land nor the labor to work on a very big crop for years to come. Take the island of Negros and a part of Panay—and they are the only sugar islands in the group—even they are not worked to the full for lack of labor. The sugar laborer does not make as much as the man who goes to get tobacco, and you are not going to get laborers to quit more profitable employment for one less so."

Gov. Wright was asked if there were not sugar land in Mindanao, and he replied:

"Yes, there is. But there, again, the question of labor comes in. There is no one to work it, and there will not be for many years to come. The sugar production of the islands will grow with time, with the introduction of improved machinery and the physical labor element of the population. But if the islands are to export 600,000 tons of sugar in the next five or six years they will be doing well. Now, this will be a very big task. The 600,000 tons consumed in the United States is increasing rapidly in population, and if the Philippines in five or ten years are to begin to export sugar, the production of sugar at the rate of 100,000 tons a year, which is very doubtful, they would not more than keep up with the increasing demand in this country."

**Should Have Open Market.**  
"No, there is not the slightest danger that the Philippines will ever swamp this country with sugar. But they ought to be given a good, steady open market, and this would help the industry."

"A great deal of misinformation about sugar that has been disseminated from the islands was put out by the people who wanted to make out a case against the Philippines. I know one man who went there for that purpose and who told the people down in Negros that the people he represented had \$5,000,000 to invest in sugar lands. Well! did those gullible people give him some roseate stories about the possibilities of sugar? I guess they did. They had lands to sell. You don't see a man with \$5,000,000 into any country in the United States to buy up their lands, and I suspect they will give him some surprising figures as to the fertility and value of the soil too."

As to the tobacco situation, Gov. Wright says there is even less likelihood of its injuring the trade in the United States than there is of sugar doing the same thing.

"People do not seem to realize," said he, "that there are only two provinces in the Philippines that raise tobacco to amount to anything. They are Cagayan and Isabela, and these are Casagayan and Isabela plant a serious show in the American market. Most of the tobacco that is grown in the Philippines is for home consumption. Nearly everybody there above the

age of five, men, women and children, smoke. There is an immense domestic consumption of tobacco and there is little raised above the domestic needs. The best of the surplus crop comes to Manila and there it is made up by the big manufacturers who are about as clean as soap suds as it would be possible to find. The business is profitable to them as it is, and a widening of the market would only give the growers a chance to sell their wares somewhere else and at better prices than they now do. Naturally this is not what the manufacturers in Manila want."

**The Agricultural Banks.**  
"It was not long ago that the planters sent a deputation to the government in Manila asking for an advance of \$100,000 on their crop so that they could hold it for better prices than the manufacturers were then willing to give. They think the government ought to do that sort of thing right along. That would be one of the benefits of the proposed agricultural bank. We have recommended in our report the establishment of such a bank with private capital under government guarantee. But the people must have respectable security before a well-conducted bank can advance them money. There is really no reason why something of approximately the same sort should not work in the Philippines."

"The general situation is good. Things are quiet and the roads and railroads are being extended gradually. One of the greatest troubles that we have in holding the restless work with the American administrator, either private or public, somewhere within speaking distance of the easy-going indifference and slowness of the native of the tropics. There is really more friction over that difference in temperament than over anything else just now. It is a more serious small problem than one outside the country would imagine."